



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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District Man Found Guilty For The Brutal Murder Of His Wife

Washington, D.C. - Acting United States Attorney Channing D. Phillips announced today that a 38-year-old District of Columbia man, Myrone Williams, was found guilty on June 11, 2009, of Second Degree Murder While Armed, Threats, and related gun offenses, in connection with the March 22, 2008, shooting death of his wife, 37-year-old Bernadette Hamilton.

The Honorable Herbert B. Dixon, Jr. presided over the trial and will sentence Williams on August 17, 2009. The defendant faces a maximum sentence of 85 years in jail based on the conviction.

According to the government's evidence presented at trial, the defendant was married to his wife, Bernadette Hamilton, for several years. They had two boys, ages 10 and 12 from this union. In early March, 2008, Ms. Hamilton decided to divorce the defendant and, on March 3, 2008, served the defendant with divorce papers. At approximately 1:00 a.m. that morning, the couple's youngest son heard the couple arguing over the divorce. The son then saw his father go into a room and return with a very large knife and threaten to kill his mother. Ms. Hamilton left the house and drove to the Seventh District where she received assistance in moving her and her sons out of the family home.

On the evening of Friday, March 21, 2008, the defendant picked up his two sons from the decedent's mother's house, where the decedent was now staying. The boys thought that they were to spend time with their father for the evening. Instead, the boys went to their cousin's house, where they watched television and played video games.

At approximately 12:25 a.m. that night, a phone call was placed from the decedent's cell phone to the defendant's cell

phone. A few minutes later, the decedent drove to the house where the defendant was staying. While the decedent was in front of the house, the defendant appeared with a .9 mm semi-automatic pistol and shot his wife ten times before fleeing. The decedent did not survive the assault.

In announcing this verdict, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips commended Metropolitan Police Department Detectives Joshua Branson, Norma Horne, Thomas Webb, Konstantino Giannakoulis, Robert Cephas, Anthony Greene, James Wilson, and Ozetta Posey, along with Seventh District Officers Melissa Smith and Steven Sanchez. He likewise commended Crime Scene Search Officers Steven Griffith and Julius D. Smith. He also praised the efforts of Victim/Witness Advocate Marcia Rinker, Paralegal Kelly Blakeney and the entire Litigation Support Staff for a strong team effort. Lastly, Mr. Phillips thanked former Assistant United States Attorney June Jeffries, who indicted the case, and Assistant United States Attorney Charles W. Cobb who tried the case.

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09-153